

State of  
Washington  
House of  
Representatives



January 18, 2010

The Honorable Christine Gregoire  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Gregoire:

We are writing to you today to ask that you personally visit Larch Corrections Center in Yacolt, WA to better understand the benefits to the community that Larch Provides. We encourage you to speak with both staff members and inmates to assess the situation more closely.

Due to budget cuts, the Department of Corrections is asked to reduce their budget through facility closures and mergers. As you know, Larch Corrections Center is on the Department of Correction's list of facility closures. We believe that Larch Corrections Center provides valuable community services at a fraction of the cost of non-inmate labor. Not only does this save the state money, it also allows inmates to learn trade skills, understand responsibility and repay their debt to society in a constructive way.

Inmate crews are trained by the Department of Natural Resources to fight fires and are mobilized around the state as needed. The cost of this inmate crew is substantially less than other fire crews. In 2009, Larch crews responded to 7 fires for a cost of \$261,000. Contractor crews would have cost somewhere in between \$522,000 to \$1,044,000 according to Department of Natural Resources reports. These are just some of the ways Larch contributes to its surrounding community.

As you can see, the Larch Corrections Center is a useful and well-utilized tool that serves a dual purpose. Not only does this center serve to rehabilitate inmates, and does so in a constructive manner, it also saves costs to local governments and the state by allowing its offenders to work outside prison walls and serve it's community in a valuable way.

Thank you for your consideration to allow Larch Corrections Center to remain open. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Orcutt".

Representative Ed Orcutt  
18<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jaime Herrera".

Representative Jaime Herrera  
18<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Taylor".

Representative David Taylor  
15<sup>th</sup> Legislative District